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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/722,044

11/24/2003

Orville V. Welker

53081/43062

9296

21888 7590 01/03/2007
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EXAMINER

BARFIELD, ANTHONY DERRELL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3636

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

01/03/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/722,044	WELKER, ORVILLE V.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anthony D. Barfield	3636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 23-32 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-9,11-14,16-20 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,10,15 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/22/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2,4,6-9,12-14, and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawakami et al. Kawakami et al. show a support mechanism, the support mechanism comprising: a base member (21) adapted for supporting the support mechanism from a support surface; a first support arm (51) having a distal end pivotally connected to a pivot bracket (32) and a proximal end operatively connected to the base member in a manner to permit pivoting movement of the first support arm relative to the support surface between a stowed position and a deployed position, the distal end of the first support arm being generally adjacent the support surface when the first support arm is in its stowed position (see Fig. 3) and spaced from the support surface when the first support arm is in its deployed position (see Fig. 1); a first synchronizing arm (52) generally adjacent to the first support arm, the first synchronizing arm having a distal end pivotally connected to the pivot bracket and a proximal end operatively connected to the base member in a manner to permit pivoting movement of the first synchronizing arm relative to the support surface, the first synchronizing arm and first support arm being operatively connected to the pivot bracket and base member in a manner so that the first synchronizing arm and first support arm maintain a substantially parallel relationship with one another throughout the entire range of movement of the first support arm between its stowed

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and deployed positions; a second support arm (61) having a distal end pivotally connected to the pivot bracket and a proximal end operatively connected to a load-supporting platform (33) in a manner to permit pivoting movement of the second support arm relative to the load-supporting platform between a stowed position and a deployed position; and a second synchronizing arm (62) generally adjacent to the second support arm, the second synchronizing arm having a distal end pivotally connected to the pivot bracket and a proximal end operatively connected to the load-supporting platform in a manner to permit pivoting movement of the second synchronizing arm relative to the load-supporting platform, the second synchronizing arm and second support arm being operatively connected to the pivot bracket and load-supporting platform in a manner so that the second synchronizing arm and second support arm maintain a substantially parallel relationship with one another throughout the entire range of movement of the second support arm between its stowed and deployed positions; the first and second support arms and first and second synchronizing arms being operatively connected with one another in a manner so that the load-supporting platform moves substantially along a fixed vertical axis as the first and second support arms move between their respective stowed and deployed positions. Kawakami et al. furthers shows the use of a first stop member (see Fig. 2) via shaft (66) on the pivot bracket and an edge on the first support arm while a second stop member is on the load supporting member (the undersurface thereof as shown in Fig. 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 11 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Kawakami et al. in view of Park. Kawakami et al. shows all of the teachings of the claimed invention except the use of the base member movable about a vertical axis. Park shows the conventional use of a base member (70) that is movable about a vertical axis. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the support mechanism of Kawakami et al., with the teachings of Park, in order to allow a user more degrees of freedom when using the support mechanism.

Allowable Subject Matter

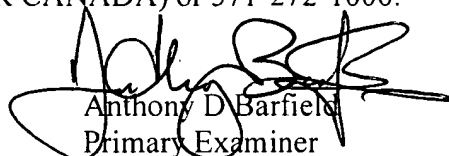
5. Claims 3,10,15 and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. Claims 23-32 are allowed over the prior art made of record.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony D. Barfield whose telephone number is 571-272-6852. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Anthony D. Barfield
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3636

adb
December 26, 2006